

## 90 PERCENT OF EL PASO MEN MEMBERS OF SECRET SOCIETIES

Lodge Investment and Facilities Here Equal to Those of Cities Thrice the Age of This; Gain Attention at Conventions Through Boosters in Marching Clubs; Handsome Temples Are Many.

SINCE the east came west to El Paso the old boast that every man in town could ride a horse may no longer be good, but it certainly is true that every man in El Paso can ride a "goat" for most of them have done it.

The registers of fraternal orders show that 90 per cent of the city's American male population belong to some secret society. This furnishes support for activities which has resulted in many magnificent lodge homes being erected in the last few years and in the presence in El Paso of many national and state officials, past and active, of all the large national orders.

The result of this is that El Paso has the most efficient lot of boosters of any city in the west, and there is no national or state lodge gathering anywhere that does not have impressed upon it the fact that El Paso is an excellent place to live in.

Unique marching clubs from El Paso that attract much attention at lodge conventions, everywhere assist the natural exuberance of the El Pasoan spirit. El Maids Shriners' Arab patrol and the Queen Sabe club of the Elks are widely known on account of their fancy drills and attractive costumes.

**Have Many Handsome Buildings.** Handsome lodge buildings dominate every locality of the city, especially Cleveland and Liberty squares. The massive Masonic temple, built four years ago, is one of the impressive cities. The Odd Fellows have lately moved into a new temple, and the Scottish Rite Masons receive bids September 10 for a new cathedral which will cost a quarter of a million dollars.

**Meeting Places for Soldiers.** These handsome lodge homes have played an important part in the favor of any city in the west, and there is no national or state lodge gathering anywhere that does not have impressed upon it the fact that El Paso is an excellent place to live in.



The new Laikin building on the corner of Overland street and Broadway, being erected for the Globe Dry Goods company.

city, when their parlors and spacious recreation rooms have been thrown open to the men in khaki.

**Masons Lead in Members.** The Masons have the largest membership of any lodge in the city and they are the wealthiest in point of property valuation. El Paso Lodge No. 129, A. F. & A. M., enjoys prominence throughout the state and nation, and George F. Morgan, secretary, will succeed to the post of grand master of the grand lodge of Texas.

He was placed in line for the office when he was chosen grand junior warden at Vano last year, and he will receive the post in 1919. El Paso is also the home of other Masonic grand officers who are Tom C. Lee, grand orator, and John D. Mason, district deputy grand master. El Pasoans who hold grand lodge certificates to teach sacred work are George F. Morgan, L. E. Gillett, George W. Newell, Wyatt W. Evans, Grant Martin, John Temple Rice, W. Scott and J. Ashley Gillett. Grand lodges of other states are represented here by L. E. Gillett, representing California; V. E. Ware, Kentucky, and G. F. Morgan, Tennessee.

**Commanders Resident Here.** In the Knights Templar El Paso also has boasted several high officers. Five past commanders being resident here at the present time. Capt. T. J. Beall and H. A. Carpenter, of Texas; J. Brady, of New Mexico, and George T. Lemen, of Virginia.

In Mystic Shrine affairs El Paso has likewise been prominent. John M. Wyatt, Eugene L. Harris, Sol I. Berg, John Pace and Sam J. Pruden, all having participated in national councils.

The first local man to hold the position of grand master of the Texas grand chapter of Royal Arch Masons is R. L. Blankenship, who now holds that office. The lodge has a membership of 1800 and with a prospect of having a new lodge home in the near future. Commander E. L. Loring of the local order, is a member of the national grand lodge and influential in Masonic circles. The officers are: William J. Morgan, district; Clifford E. Webb, vice; Ernest Emerson, president; Henry A. Gillett, secretary, and Charles H. Jones, treasurer.

**Elks Have Fine Clubhouse.** El Paso Lodge No. 326, Loyal Order of Moose, is one of the thriving fraternal lodges in the city, having a membership of 1800 and with a prospect of having a new lodge home in the near future. Commander E. L. Loring of the local order, is a member of the national grand lodge and influential in Masonic circles. The officers are: William J. Morgan, district; Clifford E. Webb, vice; Ernest Emerson, president; Henry A. Gillett, secretary, and Charles H. Jones, treasurer.

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**Odd Fellows Own Temple.** The new temple of the Odd Fellows cost \$25,000 to erect and is complete in every respect. This stands at the corner of Franklin and North Santa Fe streets. The lodge has a membership of 325 and is growing. Mount Franklin encampment, Odd Fellows, has 85 members. The Rebekahs have 80 members.

**To Build \$225,000 Cathedral.** The new \$225,000 cathedral of the Scottish Rite Masons will be begun this fall. The ground has been prepared and brought to grade in readiness. It will be a high one-story structure with masonry floor. It will contain a library, and a large auditorium and stage. It will have its own electrical plant and ventilating and heating apparatus.

**York Rite in One Temple.** El Paso Lodge No. 129's six-story

temple at the corner of El Paso and Missouri streets, which is the finest lodge building in the west, costing \$200,000, houses the lodge, and El Paso chapter, council, commandery and chair El Paso Lodge No. 129 dates from 1884, being the first to be organized in the valley.

**New Lodge Has 150.** Fraternity Lodge No. 1111, A. F. & A. M., was formed two years ago, and has 150 members. It has quarters in the latter building. Capitular and cryptic Masonry in El Paso chapter No. 127, Royal Arch Masons, and El Paso Council No. 35, Royal and Select Masters, are receiving much impetus. El Paso Commandery No. 18, Knights Templar, has 275 members. El Maids temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., is working for the thousand mark.

**Pythians Will Build.** El Paso Lodge No. 42, Knights of Pythias, one of the oldest secret societies organizations here, last year moved into a new castle hall in the latter building on North Stanton street, and expects within a year to build a temple of its own on lots just north of the Masonic temple.

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## WHITE - PICKRELL BLDG.



WHITE-PICKRELL building, on the corner of West San Antonio and Durango streets. The building is 32x120 feet and, while the first floor will be used for stores, the second and third stories will be in rooms, 42 of them being finished up. What is known as "button lathe" partitions are being used in the top floors. This is the first to be tried in El Paso.

In the right of the picture may be seen the concrete forms for another building. This is being erected by Z. T. White on the corner of Leon and San Antonio streets, and is to be leased to the Lone Star Motor company. It is being built of reinforced concrete and will be four stories high. It is 120x120 feet.

In front of the White-Pickrell building on the northwest corner of Durango and San Antonio streets, the Firestone Tire and Rubber company is erecting a building two stories high with basement.

The L. E. Becker apartment and store building, three stories high, is in course of construction a block west on San Antonio and Anthony streets.

Z. T. White and Clarence Pickrell are the owners of the White-Pickrell building.

## NEW BOOKER BUILDING



BOOKER building, now nearing completion on the corner of West San Antonio and Anthony streets. L. E. Becker, the owner, is having the first floors completed for stores. Fourteen apartments take up the two top floors.

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EL PASO, TEXAS

## CITY TO BUILD A DISPOSAL PLANT

Expenditure on Sewers and Sewage Plant to Cost \$200,000 This Year.

Work on the sewerage system in and around El Paso is now going on at a rapid pace, and it is expected that the construction of a sewer disposal plant which will cost \$200,000, and for the sewer along Seventh street which is to cost \$15,000, while the construction of a sewer from the

present disposal plant along Boone street, Crockett and Houston streets, for north as Leeda, is now under construction. In addition to this last, calling for an expenditure of \$20,000, the government is pushing the work on the \$17,000 sewer at Fort Bliss.

**Disposal Plant Plans Ready.** Plans for the new disposal plant are now in the hands of the state sanitary engineer for examination, and it is expected that construction of the plant is to begin as soon as they are passed upon. This plant is to be built in compliance with the Texas law which went into effect in July and which prohibits cities from polluting streams, the present disposal plant, built for industrial sewage only, having no such equipment.

The method of purifying sewage decided upon after investigation by department officials, is known as the Inhoff system, which is in use in many of the large cities of the United States as well as in France and Germany. A form of settling tank is employed which separates the sludge from the sewage, eliminating solids for fertilizer and for incineration, so that the water in the sewage may be discharged into a stream sufficient for moving the sewage of a population of 80,000 and is to be located between the present disposal plant and the river, in Woodlawn addition. According to sewer commissioner A. S. Howren, there had been some holding off in regard to the construction of the important sewer along Seventh street until such time as it should be known definitely what was going to be done about the proposed subway for railroad trains, since the adoption of the subway would have required the expenditure of the money voted for the sewer to be disposed of according to a different plan. Now that this matter has been determined upon it is expected that work on the sewer will soon be under way.

**To Make Lower Section Sanitary.** This sewer is part of the general plan working upon by officials to make the Mexican quarter more sanitary, and is designed to drain Seventh street of flood waters that accumulate there. Diverting sewers for storm waters on several other streets between the mesa and the district south of San Antonio will carry off the rushing water from the mountain and the mesa.

The 16 inch sewer now under construction from the present disposal plant along Boone street, Crockett and Houston streets, and which is to run as far north as Leeda, provides for carrying off sewage from Government Hill, Richmond Terrace, Manhattan Heights, and that part of Altura Park which is within the city limits.

**Government Constructs Sewer.** The sewer which is being constructed in the neighborhood of Fort Bliss under governmental supervision is designed to enlarge the carrying capacity of the sewer system of the district and is to extend from the remount station to Richmond Terrace, connecting finally with the 12 inch city sewer at Leeda street. There are 15,000 feet being constructed. Walter C. Shaw, of the firm of Kroeger, Mayfield & Shaw, is under contract to finish the work sometime in October.

Minor work on sewers since the first of the year includes about two and a half miles of six and eight inch line. Expenditures for maintenance during this period has been about \$5000. Work demanded on these improvements will occupy the department for many months, and when completed the city will have nearly 120 miles of sewer.